



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for November 21, 2002

DID YOU KNOW...

On the Muslim calendar, November is the ninth month of the year and the time that Ramadan is observed. During this sacred time, Muslims observe the Fast of Ramadan. Lasting for the entire month, Muslims fast during the daylight hours and in the evening, eat small meals and visit with friends and family. It is a time of worship and contemplation; a time to strengthen family and community ties.

Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn has released the following greeting to Muslims of the 8th Congressional district who are celebrating Ramadan:

During this sacred time of Ramadan, I wish to express appreciation to the many Muslim members of our community whose patriotism and support for our nation are valued during these challenging times.

One of my responsibilities as a Member of the Congress is to ensure that the civil rights, liberties and personal safety of all Americans, representing all ethnic and religious backgrounds are protected and upheld. The common thread that ties us together is that we all desire peace, safety and security.

Ramadan is a time of inner reflection and reaffirmation of our common humanity. May all Muslims of the 8th Congressional District find peace and spiritual fulfillment during this time and throughout the year.



Jennifer met recently with Lois and Ed Smart, the parents of Elizabeth Smart to discuss the Dunn-Frost bill to expand the AMBER alert nationwide. Elizabeth Smart is the 14-year-old girl who was abducted from her bedroom last June in Salt Lake City and has yet to be found.

What is going on this week?

The US House has finished its business for the 107th Congress. No votes are expected until early next year. Members are scheduled to return to Washington, DC to be sworn into the 108th Congress in early January, 2003.

What we did last week and summary of press releases;

US HOUSE APPROVES EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The US House has passed a bill that would extend by five weeks unemployment benefits to workers whose benefits will expire on December 28, 2002. The bill originated in the House Ways and Means Committee, of which Congresswoman Dunn is a Member. It is estimated that about 45,400 workers in Washington State would benefit from the additional benefits. Speaking to Congress in support of the unemployment extension, Congresswoman Dunn said, "Without any extensions, many thousands of dislocated workers will lose unemployment benefits they need to make ends meet as they search for a job."

US HOUSE PASSES FINAL VERSION OF HOMELAND SECURITY LEGISLATION; *US Rep Jennifer Dunn Votes in Support of Measure*

The US House has approved the "Homeland Security Act of 2002," the final version of the legislation that will strengthen homeland security by creating a new US Department to streamline and coordinate intelligence and security efforts. The bill is the result of a House and Senate compromise and will be signed by the President within the next few days. *"Keeping American families safe at home and abroad is the most important responsibility of government. I am pleased that the Congress was able to pass this homeland security bill as one of the final items of business before the end of this session," said Congresswoman Dunn.*

Highlights of the Homeland Security Act are as follows:

- It creates a new US Department of Homeland Security that will better coordinate efforts to keep Americans safe at home and abroad.
- The bill moves the US Coast Guard, the Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the new agency (with the exception of the revenue gathering facets of these agencies). It also establishes new rules for the State Department to issue and track visas.
- It establishes a Privacy Officer and a Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Officer to ensure that civil rights and liberties are protected.

US SENATE CONFIRMS RON LEIGHTON TO FEDERAL BENCH IN TACOMA; *Leighton's Confirmation Supported by Congresswoman Dunn*

The US Senate has confirmed Tacoma attorney Ronald Leighton to replace retiring US District Judge, Robert Bryan. Leighton was initially nominated to fill the impending vacancy last winter, but his confirmation has been stalled in the Senate. Congresswoman Dunn fully supported Leighton's confirmation and made such recommendations to the White House and Senate earlier in the year. Immediately following Leighton's confirmation, Congresswoman Dunn released the following statement:

"I can think of no one who is better qualified or better prepared to fill this vacancy. Ron has an exceptional work ethic, a long history of community involvement and has earned the respect of those who have worked with him. He will bring open-mindedness and thoughtfulness to the federal bench in Tacoma as he makes decisions in a fair and balanced manner. I congratulate retiring Judge Robert Bryan for his years of hard work, dedicated service and patience throughout this long process.... (and) I congratulate Ron upon his confirmation and offer my continuing support as he begins his tenure as federal judge."

US HOUSE APPROVES REP JENNIFER DUNN'S REQUEST TO EXPAND MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY

The US House has approved a proposal by Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn to expand the Mt. Rainier National Park Boundary by 1000 acres and provide visitors with greater access to the park. The measure will also provide for a permanent visitors' center near the Carbon River entrance. The bill was one of the last measures approved during this session of Congress.

"As a life-long Washingtonian, I appreciate the importance of maintaining our most treasured natural resources. Mt. Rainier is one of the crown jewels of the national park system. To enhance the enjoyment of the park, this legislation will allow visitors greater access to a temperate rainforest," said Congresswoman Dunn.

US HOUSE APPROVES FINAL VERSION OF PIPELINE SAFETY BILL; *Bill Includes Dunn-Larsen proposals*

The US House has approved the final version of a pipeline safety bill that will help to prevent accidents similar to the 1999 Bellingham pipeline explosion that killed three children. The legislation was sponsored by Chairman of the House Transportation Committee Don Young and includes several provisions from pipeline safety legislation authored by Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn and Congressman Rick Larsen. The bill was approved last summer by the US House and then later included as part of a comprehensive energy bill. But when House-Senate negotiators failed to reach an agreement on the energy bill, a final version of the pipeline safety bill was considered as a separate measure. The Senate approved the bill last night and the President is expected to sign it within the next few days.

"It is a relief that in these final days of this session of Congress, we were able to pass this priority legislation. It is imperative that we know our pipelines are held to strict safety standards and that those who operate these pipelines are qualified to do their jobs," said Congresswoman Dunn.